



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

---

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

In re Patent No. 7045543 :  
Issue Date: May 16, 2006 :  
Application No. 09993976 :DECISION GRANTING PETITION  
Filed: November 5, 2001 :UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)  
Attorney Docket No. 99,297 :

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed July 13, 2010, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of July 13, 2010. This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.